

ARGUMENT

1) The Office Action rejected claim 15 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hickman. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

A single prior art reference anticipates a claimed invention only if it discloses each and every claim element.¹

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowable subject matter in allowing claim 16 if rewritten into claim 15. However, Applicant believes claim 15 is allowable and requests a telephone interview.

In the Final Rejection, the Examiner stated:

Hickman shows a strap which may consist of two layers of material such as leather sewn together over substantially the entire length of the strap (column 2, lines 8-24). Leather would generally be considered a soft, padded, non-stretchable material, so one layer could be considered a padded layer, and the other layer could be considered a non-stretchable layer. Although Hickman does not disclose that the strap could be used in combination with a bow string release, it includes all structure claimed and could be used for this purpose with no structural change.

Applicant asserts that leather is a stretchable material, and in support of this assertion encloses pages from the Internet that indicate that leather is stretchable.

Because leather is stretchable, the Examiner's assertion that leather is non-stretchable is incorrect.

Furthermore, Hickman does not disclose a multi-layer strap as claimed and further being connected to a bow string release. Applicant proposes an Examiner's amendment to add suitable language to the claim, as shown. The limitation regarding the bow string release was present in the preamble as originally filed.

On Thursday, April 13, 2006, a telephone interview was held with the Examiner by Gerald E. Helget and Nelson R. Capes. Agreement was reached to submit the proposed amendment in the Request and Topics for Interview filed March 22, 2006 as a formal amendment.

¹ *Structural Rubber Prod. Co. v. Park Rubber Co.*, 749 F.2d 707, 223 USPQ 1264 (Fed. Cir. 1984)

Agreement was also reached that the Hickman reference (2,394,856) does not disclose a multi-layer strap for a bow string release comprising a padded layer and a substantially non-stretchable layer overlaying said padded layer over substantially all of the padded layer.

For the above reasons, Applicant requests allowance of all claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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